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**Obituaries**

# Madeleine Tress

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Madeleine Tress On September 26, 2009 San Francisco lost an extraordinary citizen and the gay and lesbian community lost a loving friend. Madeleine Tress, attorney, memoirist and humanitarian, died in her sleep at age 77 after a prolonged illness. Madeleine was born November 27, 1932 in Brooklyn, New York. She termed herself a "perpetual student," having attained degrees throughout the years at Georgetown, the London School of Economics, New York University and the Universities of California at Berkeley and San Francisco. For many years she had her own law firm in San Francisco, and argued a job discrimination case that was brought before the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1962 she met teacher Jan Sibley, the woman whom she would love and live with for the next 40 years. They traveled around the world, attended Marches on Washington and the Gay Olympic Games, volunteered with the Castro Lions, and owned their own shop dedicated to feline lovers, "Wholly Cats." Together they were a formidable and fun pair, respected and loved by everyone who knew them. Madeleine's memoirs entitled "Rainbows On The Ceiling," can be found in the SF Public Library. She leaves a loving family, including her brothers Arthur Tress and David Tress; a half brother, Adam Tress; and a half sister, Susan Tress. A memorial gathering will be held on Saturday, November 14, 2009 from 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. please contact 415-564-1472 for information.

**Funeral Etiquette**

Expert advice on what to do and say when someone dies.

Published in San Francisco Chronicle on Nov. 9, 2009

**REMEMBER**

Share memories or express condolences below.

THE GUEST BOOK IS EXPIRED

*"WHOLLY CATS!!!!!!!!!!!! I HAVE A YELLOW PILLOW WITH THE LOGO AND ONE OF THE WATCHES WITH THE LOGO THAT JAN AND MADELEINE DESIGNED. HAD THE PLEASURE OF "VOLUNTEERING" MY HELP AT CAT SHOWS WHERE THEY HAD A..."*

**-SHIRLEY COSTELLO**

1 ENTRY

Please restore the Guest Book to share in the life story for  
**MADELEINE TRESS**

**RESTORE THE GUEST BOOK**

**RESOURCES**

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**FIND ADVICE & SUPPORT**

- [Funeral Etiquette](#)
- [Grief Support Groups](#)

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